

Promoting Diversity in Digital Communications

November 20, 2007

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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 02-6; GN Docket No. 07-45.

Dear Secretary Dortch:

On Friday, Nov. 16, Ms. Carrie Lowe, (Internet Policy Specialist from the American Library Association), Mr. Rick Weingarten (a consultant to the ALA), Mr. John Bertot, a Professor at Florida State University, and the undersigned met with Mr. Scott Deutchman of Commissioner Copps' office. The ALA representatives discussed the need for public libraries across the United States to have access to very high-speed broadband to meet the growing demand of their users. The ALA representatives summarized the findings of two separate reports that were funded by the Gates Foundation concerning the difficulties that public libraries are having in acquiring adequate broadband capability. The ALA representatives discussed some of the measures that public libraries are undertaking to address the need for greater Internet access, and also urged federal and state policy-makers across the board to take the needs of public libraries into account in developing broadband policies.

A summary of the discussion is presented in the attached powerpoint presentation. Please contact the undersigned if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

John Windhausen, Jr.

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CC: Scott Deutchman (by e-mail)